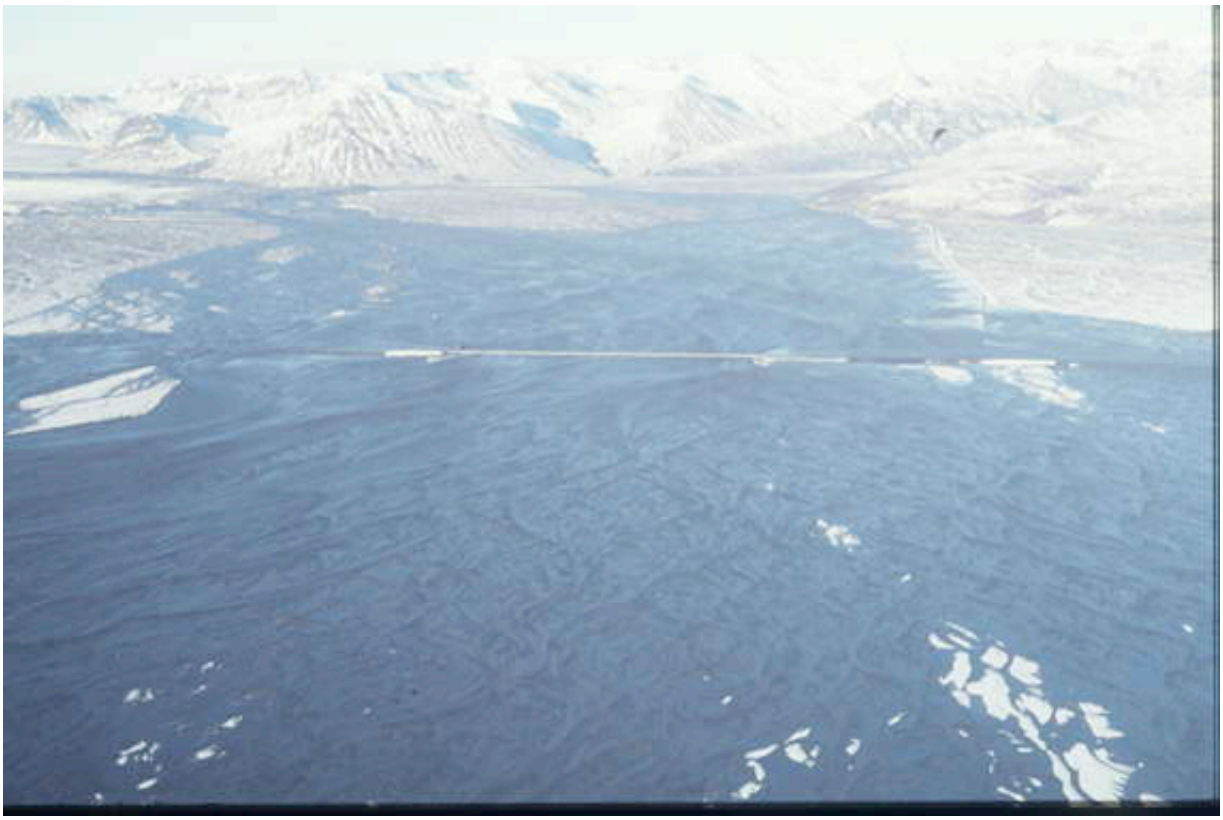
Pictures from the jökulhlaup.

Jökulhlaup, 5 November 1996 at 1200 UT.

A view towards west across the central part of the outlet glacier, Skeiðarárjökull. The jökulhlaup burst through the glacier snout some tens of meters from the edge and followed the glacier moraine before finding its way out to the alluvial plain. The photo is taken ~1 hour after water started to emerge from this part of the glacier.

Jökulhlaup, 5 November 1996 at 1300 UT.

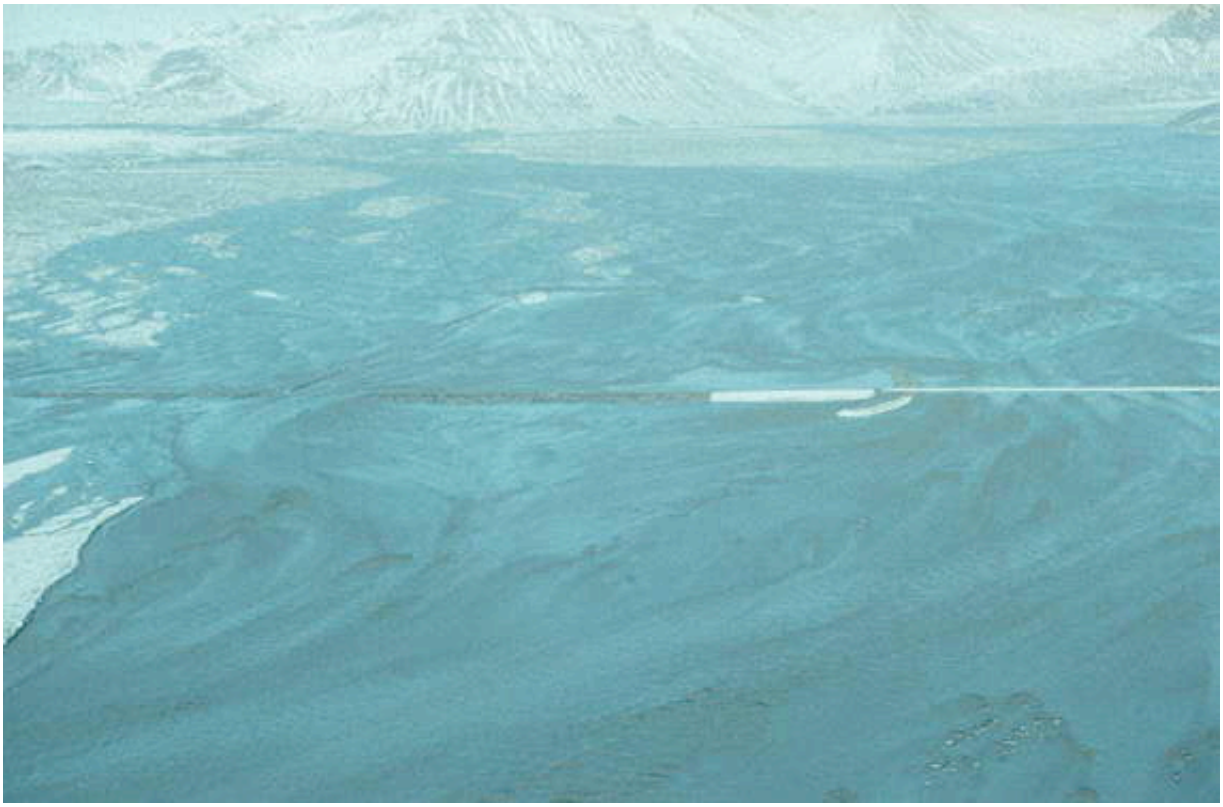
The eastern end of the 380 m long bridge across Gýgja has disappeared. The total discharge in Gýgja at this time is close to 5,000 m^3/s. This bridge was totally destroyed by the jökulhlaup.



Jökulhlaup, 5 November 1996 at 1430 UT.

A view towards north, showing the easternmost part of the jökulhlaup, the 900 m long Skeiðará bridge and the dike system protecting the Skaftafell National Park, which is situated to the east (right) of the

river. At this time about 15,000 m^3/s was flowing down this part of the alluvial plain. The bridge was still intact but a few hours later the easternmost end was washed away.



A closer view of the western end of Skeiðará, 5. November 1996 at 1430 UT.

Jökulhlaup, 5 November 1996.

A view towards east across the Skeiðarársandur alluvial plain, from Lómagnúpur in the west to the Öræfajökull stratovolcano at 1200 UT. Skeiðarársandur is covered with a thin layer of snow but the

area under water appears dark. The main part of the flood is still in Skeiðará to the east. The flood has just started in Gýgja, which appears as a narrow dark band in the central part of the plain. Öræfajökull is the highest mountain in Iceland, 2119 m. The road across the plain is 35 km long.

The mouth of Skeiðará, 1230 UT on 5 November 1996.

Another view of the mouth of Skeiðará, 5 November 1996.

Note the turbulence in the jökulhlaup water which generates a surprisingly regular circle on the

surface of the sea.

Grímsvötn and Grímsfjall, 7 November 1996.

A view towards southeast across the Grímsvötn depression after it has subsided 165 m. The outlet from the lake is at its southeastern margin, i.e. to the left of the Grímsfjall mountain range.

A closeup of the Grímsvötn outlet by the eastern rim of Mt. Grímsfjall, 7 November 1996.

The mountain cliffs are about 300 m high. Huge cauldrons formed at regular intervals within the 6 km long and 500 m wide outlet. The outlet canyon was formed during the flood on 5-6 November. On 6 November flowing water could be seen at the bottom of the largest pit craters formed in the canyon where the roof over the subglacial outlet tunnel had collapsed.

The southern part of the Grímsvötn outlet, 7 November 1996.

The glacier canyon is 6 km long and 500 m wide with an average subsidence of 100 m. Steam rises from the canyon.

Grímsvötn viewed from the north on 7 November 1996.

Pressure ridges have formed over crevasses in the northern part of the depression. The temperature within the depression was -25 degrees Centigrade and fog has formed in the cold still air, aided by steam rising from crevasses.

These photographs were taken by Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson and Finnur Pálsson.

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08 November 1996